

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 17963 180638Z

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E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: SANKEI NATIONWIDE INTERVIEW POLL ON POLITICAL ISSUES

SUMMARY: DECEMBER 11 SANKEI ANNOUNCED RESULTS OF ITS FACE-TO-FACE POLL TAKEN NOVEMBER 18-20 WITH NATIONAL PROBABILITY SAMPLE RESULTING IN 2,442 COMPLETED INTERVIEWS. SOME FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE: (A) SUPPORT FOR MIKI CABINET (24.6 PERCENT) WAS LOWEST EVER, CONTINUING STEADY DOWN TREND SINCE INAUGURATION ONE YEAR AGO. IN THIS CONNECTION, SANKEI NOTED THAT MIKI SUPPORT/ NONSUPPORT RATINGS IN THIS INTERVIEW POLL "TALLIED CLOSELY" WITH THOSE IN LATEST OF ITS REGULAR TELEPHONE POLLS. (B) WHILE VERY SMALL GRUP (3.6) PEXRESSED WILLINGNESS TO VOTE FOR COMMUNIST CANDIDATES IN NEXT GENERAL ELECTION, PLURALITY (28.2) THOUGHT JCP IS LIKELY TO INCREASE ITS SEATS IN NEXT ELECTION. SANKEI ANALYST ATTRIBUTED THIS CONTRADICTIONTO "STILL LINGERING STRONG IMPRESSION AMONG THE PUBLIC OF REMARKABLE ADVANCE MADE BY JCP IN LAST GENERAL ELECTION." (C) ALTHOUGH SUPPORTERS OF CONSERVATIVES (43.7) OUTNUMBERED THOSE OF PROGRESSIVE (41.4) BY 2.3 PERCENT, THIS REPRESENTED SHRINKAGE FROM 7.4 PERCENT MARGIN BEFORE LAST LOWER HOUSE ELECTION TRREE YEARS AGO. (D) VERY FEW RESPONDENTS HAD CONFIDENCE IN ABILITY OF OPPOSITION PARTIES TO TAKE HELM OF

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 17963 180638Z

STATE IN EVENT MIKI CABINET GOT STALEMATED. INSTEAD OF GIVING

CHANCE TO OPPOSITION PARTIES, MANY PREFERRED GENERAL ELECTION OR CABINET RESHUFFLE. (E) TAKEO FUKUDA CAME OUT TOP (26.9) AS "MOST APPROPRIATE PERSON" TO SUCCEED PM MIKI. (F) SMALLEST GROUP (3.7) MENTIONED "DEFENSE" AS MOST IMPORTANT CURRENT ISSUE, WHILE "RECESSION/PRICE MEASURES" DREW MOST AT 80.6 PERCENT. END SUMMARY.

FULL TEXT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

1. DO YOU SUPPORT MIKI CABINET, OR DON'T YOU?: (A) SUPPORT, 24.6; (B) DO NOT SUPPORT, 40.1; (C) CANNOT SAY EITHER WAY, 26.4; (D) DK, 8.9.

2. IF, IN FUTURE, MIKI CABINET COMES TO DEADLOCK, WHAT DO YOU THINK SHOULD BE DONE TO BREAK STALEMATE?: (A) DISSOLVE DIET/CALL GENERAL ELECTION, 26.6; (B) CHOSE NEW PRIME MINISTER FROM AMONG LDP MEN AND HAVE PM MIKI STEP DOWN, 6.5 (C) RESHUFFLE CABINET, 18.9; (D) ORGANIZE CONSERVATIVE-PROGRESSIVE COALITION REGIME, 9.8; (E) HAND OVER POWER TO OPPOSITION PARTIES, 4.3; (F) LEAVE AS IT IS, 9.3; (G) DK, 24.5.

3. IF DIET SHOULD BE DISSOLVED AND GENERAL ELECTION HELD IN NEAR FUTURE, WHICH PARTY'S CANDIDATE WILL YOU VOTE FOR?: (A) LDP, 30.5; (B) JSP, 16.1; (C) JCP, 3.6; (D) KOMEITO, 4.7; (E) DSP, 3.0; (F) THOUGH NOT DECIDED YET, MORE OR LESS CONSERVATIVE, 13.2; (G) THOUGH NOT DECIDED YET, MORE OR LESS PROGRESSIVE, 14.0; (H) WILL ABSTAIN FROM VOTING, 1.5; (I) DK, 13.3.

4. AT LAST LOWER HOUSE ELECTION (DECEMBER 1972) WHICH PARTY'S CANDIDATE DID YOU VOTE FOR?: (A) LDP, 39.6; (B) JSP, 20.0; (C) JCP, 4.5; (D) KOMEITO 4.6; (E) DSP, 3.1; (F) THOUGH DO NOT REMEMBER, MORE OR LESS CONSERVATIVE, 5.4; (G) THOUGH DO NOT REMEMBER, MORE OR LESS PROGRESSIVE, 5.4; (H) ABSTAINED FROM VOTING, 7.2; (I) DK, 10.2.

5. IF LOWER HOUSE ELECTION IS HELD NEXT, WHAT PARTY DO YOU THINK WILL INCREASE SEATS? (MULTIPLE REPLIES): (A) LDP, 22.6; (B) JSP, 17.6; (C) JCP, 28.2; (D) KOMEITO, 16.1; (E) DSP, 4.3; (F) DK, 26.8.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TOKYO 17963 180638Z

6. WHO DO YOU THINK WILL BE MOST APPROPRIATE PERSON TO BECOME PRIME MINISTER AFTER PM MIKI?: (A) TAKEO FUKUDA, 26.9; (B) MASAYOSHI OHIRA, 7.8; (C) YASUHIRO NAKASONE, 15.6; (D) OTHER, 4.3; (E) DK, 45.2.

7. WHICH AMONG FOLLOWING DO YOU THINK ARE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES NOW? (MULTIPLE REPLIES): (A) PRICE/RECESSION/COUNTERMEASURES, 80.6; (B) HOUSING, 26.2; (C) WELFARE, 39.5; (D) POLLUTION

CONTROL, 42.6; (E) EDUCATION/MORALS, 35.4; (F) DEFENSE, 3.7; (G)
SECURING FOOD, OIL AND OTHER RESOURCES, 40.0; (H) DK, 1.3.
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